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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 000373

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DEPT FOR EUR/SCE - S. SHIRATORI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2018
TAGS: PREL UN UNMIK PGOV VI EU GT
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA STILL CONSIDERING KOSOVO RECOGNITION

REF: A. STATE 17891
1B. GUATEMALA 190

Classified By: Ambassador James M. Derham for reasons 1.4 (b&d).

(C) During a March 26 conversation with Ambassador, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Haroldo Rodas said that the GOG had demurred on Kosovo recognition in deference to Russian concerns recently raised by Russia's new ambassador during his presentation of credentials. However, the GOG was still considering recognizing Kosovo. Rodas said he would discuss the issue with his Brazilian counterpart next week while accompanying President Colom to Brazil. Regarding Guatemalan Ambassador to the U.S. Villagran's earlier statement to Ambassador that the GOG's reticence had to do with concerns about setting a precedent that could impact Guatemala's border dispute with Belize, Rodas said that was inaccurate, and that the two issues were entirely unrelated.

Derham